

RENT PROFITEERING LAID TO LESSEES

"Gouged" Tenants Unable to Find Owners in Maze of Agents.

ACTION URGED BY ELKUS

Aldermen Will Aid in War on Increases—Jersey City to Use Tents.

Sufficient evidence has been obtained in the block survey which is being made by the housing committee of the Governor's Reconstruction Commission to justify the belief of the investigators that much of the unreasonable rent boosting, of which tenants are bitterly complaining, is the work of lessees of buildings, and not the owners. There are many indications that certain lessees are in the "gouging" operation for all there is in it, and tenants cannot help themselves because there are not enough apartments to go around.

Abram L. Elkus, chairman of the commission, said last evening the survey, as made thus far, shows renting conditions to be serious. It was his opinion that something fundamental must be done.

Many of the heads of families on the twenty-five typical blocks visited by "surveymen" confessed that one of their greatest difficulties was to find out who their landlords are. They knew that their rent was jacked up and they had to pay it, but the rent collector or get out, voluntarily or by duress, but when they tried to protest to headquarters apparently there wasn't any such thing.

Aldermen Back Hunt.

The Board of Aldermen yesterday adopted a resolution empowering its committee on general welfare to investigate all general interests to corroborate Maynor Hyland's committee, which is hunting for rent profiteers. The aldermanic inquiry will be directed especially to the "practice of landlords entering into agreements with lessees whereby rents are increased beyond a reasonable amount." The investigation will give the power to hold public hearings and compel by subpoena attendance of witnesses and the production of their books and accounts.

Nathan Hirsch, chairman of the reconstruction committee, notified the reconstruction commission yesterday his body will turn over to the committee all facts it obtains which may be worthy of the State committee's consideration. At the headquarters of the reconstruction commission it was said that Mr. Elkus' offer a move towards coordination.

Mrs. Henry Moskowitz, secretary of the reconstruction commission, said more volunteers are needed to assist in work connected with the block survey. She would like to have volunteers report to Miss Helen E. Redding, Room 304, Hall of Representatives.

In Jersey City there is such a shortage of houses that James F. Gannon, Jr., director of revenue and finance, announced the City Commission may pitch tents in city parks this summer to care for the homeless.

Experts have already reported to Mayor Charles P. Gilpin of Newark the necessity of arranging for tents in parks if the surplus population in the biggest city of New Jersey is to be sheltered during the hot months.

Delegation Seeks Relief.

A delegation from the Bronx will go to Albany this morning to appear before Senate committees to advocate the passage of remedial legislation proposed at a meeting of Bronx legislators, Municipal Court Justices and county officials last Sunday.

"If nothing is done at this session of the Legislature," Mr. Callahan said last night, "there will be another year of inaction. We want, if possible, to get something in the way of temporary relief in court proceedings, so that municipalities can have more discretion in the matter of time in dealing with tenants against whom dispossess proceedings have been started and thus prevent distress and hardships which are now so common."

John H. Blumenthal, a lawyer, at 35 Nassau street, issued a statement in which he declared the responsibility for increases in rent and resultant hardships to tenants rest, not solely with the landlords, but primarily with real estate, mortgage corporations and individual money lenders. He said something must be legally done in the very near future to prevent the constant mortgage money being advanced at the expense of the poor tenant. Mr. Blumenthal said Chapter 263 of the laws of 1918 gives no rights to tenants and strips the landlord from every standing. Under the law, he said, a monthly tenant is subject to the will or caprice of the landlord's five day notice to get out.

BILL TO CURB RENT PIRATES.

Landlord Limited to 10 Per Cent. Profit.

Special Dispatch to THE SUN.

ALBANY, April 13.—Senator Peter A. Alches, of the Bronx, introduced to-day a bill designed to relieve the rent profiteering situation in New York city by giving greater power to Municipal Court Justices. The bill was drafted by George G. Gruber, legal expert on real estate.

The proposed measure would amend the code of civil procedure in summary proceedings in landlord and tenant cases by making it incumbent on the landlord to show he has supplied proper heat in cold weather, or to figure that would give him a return of more than 10 per cent. on assessed valuation.

Senators Alches said leaders have assured him his bill will receive favorable consideration.

ADmits EMBEZZLING CHARGE.

Boston Bank Clerk and Friend Plead Guilty.

BOSTON, April 13.—Edward H. Corey pleaded guilty in the Federal Court to-day to embezzling \$13,700 from the Second National Bank while he was employed there as a teller. Arthur L. Stevens pleaded guilty to the charge that he aided and abetted Corey.

It was charged that Corey tried to help Stevens out of financial difficulties by raising checks. Stevens was employed by the city as a paymaster. The defendants made restitution.

GAMBLERS' "KING" DEAD.

Wounds From Robbers Fatal to Henry Becker.

Mr. Lester, April 15.—Henry "King" Becker, known as the "King of St. Louis Gamblers," who was not far from the way, died last night, d'ed in a hospital early to-day as a result of the wound.

Becker was 36 years old, and from youth followed the races. It is said he had won and lost several fortunes.

He recently paid a fine of \$5,000 for taking a gambling house in Madison County, Mo. He is said to have left a large estate.

The Nation's Honor Roll

ARMY.	Reported April 15.	Total to date.
Killed in action (including 381 at sea).....	5	32,384
Died of wounds.....	9	13,435
Died of disease.....	72	22,656
Died of accident and other causes.....	41	4,248
Wounded in action.....	497	197,574
Missing in action (not including prisoners released and returned).....	16	4,563
Totals.....	639	274,860

(Corrected according to latest War Department figures.)

MARINES.	Reported April 15.	Total to date.
Deaths, all causes.....	7	2,503
Wounded.....	0	3,264
Missing in action (including prisoners).....	3	110
Totals.....	10	5,847

(Corrected according to latest Marine Corps figures.)

WASHINGTON, April 15.—The following casualties have been made public by the War Department:

ARMY

Character of casualties indicated thus:	(K) Killed in action (DW) Died of wounds (D) Died of disease (A) Died of accident or other causes (M) Missing in action (not including prisoners released and returned)
(K)	(DW)
(D)	(D)
(A)	(A)
(M)	(M)

MAILETT, Pierre, Lieut., 244 W. 78d st. (DW).

SEPPARD, George W., Lieut., 887 9th st. (DW).

STANLEY, Alexander D., Lieut., 83 W. Ham st. (DW).

HOMES, Frank R., sergt., 348 W. 38th st. (DW).

CHICHERE, Frank C., sergt., 117 Jefferson av., (DW).

WEILBOURN, M. A., Capt., Union City (DW).

WHITEHORN, Albert B., sergt., Fort Wayne (DW).

SHAW, T. R., Lieut., Fort Wayne (DW).

STEWART, R. H., Corp., Shreveport (DW).

THURSTON, Raymond L., Provost (DW).

MEYER, Ernest H., Greys Lake (DW).

MCLEOD, George, Campion (DW).

LOQUIST, Alvane F., Henderson (DW).

MCRAKEN, John, Unalaska (DW).

MCQUADE, James, Rockford (DW).

BRANCH, Charles W., Corp., Rosebud (DW).

PIPER, Amos L., Corp., Rockford (DW).

MCLELLAN, Archie, Corp., Rockford (DW).

MCLELLAN, Charles, Corp., 2014 Clinton (DW).

MCNEIL, Melville, Corp., 1511 Elm (DW).

WEIGAND, Martin W., Corp., Zanesville (DW).

SWIFT, Lewis R., Connerville (DW).

JOHNSON, C. W., sergt., Gilbert (DW).

BAELDER, Leonards, Corp., Rockford (DW).

MCLELLAN, John, Corp., Rockford (DW).

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